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Niteloater, A New Larrid Genus

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Richard Dow
[January,

was discussed at some length, Messrs. Frank, Doll, Smith, Seib and others taking part.

This was followed by some discussions on the habits of dung beetles, particularly the so-called tumble bugs, in the course of which Mr. Seib read an article from a German publication detailing at length some observations as to the method in which the insects formed and disposed of the pellet they are so often seen trundling about.

The Entomological Section

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, PHILADELPHIA.

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS.

The following papers were read and accepted by the Committee for publication in ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS:

NITELOPTERUS, A NEW LARRID GENUS.

By WILLIAM H. ASHMEAD.

Among a small but interesting collection of parasitic Hymenoptera sent me some time ago by Mrs. Annie T. Slosson, for names, was a minute digger-wasp, taken by her last Winter at Lake Worth, Florida, representing a new genus in the family Larridæ, although evidently closely allied to the European genus *Nitela* Latreille.

Our species in this family have only quite recently been monographed by Mr. Wm. J. Fox, and I therefore think it best that there should be no delay in publishing a diagnosis of this interesting new genus.

Nitelopecterus g. n. ♂.—Head transverse, with the eyes large and occupying the whole side of the head, extending to base of mandibles; maxillary palpi 5-jointed; labral palpi 3-jointed; mandibles long lanceolate; acute at tips, but with a deep emargination on lower side before the middle; ocelli distinct, triangularly arranged. Thorax with a pronotum a little longer, but narrower than the mesonotum, with a transverse constriction or furrow above at about two-thirds its length; mesonotum broader than long, obtrapezoidal, without parapsidal furrows, but with a shallow, poorly-defined, median furrow, which is more especially noticeable anteriorly; scutellum with a transverse grooved line at base; metanotum as long as the mesonotum and scutellum united, slightly narrowed towards apex, the hind angles rounded, the short oblique posterior face transversely striated, with a slight sulcus; spiracles linear; tibial spurs 1, 1, 2, the tarsi longer than their femora. Front wings with one submarginal and two discoidal cells, the submedian cell considerably shorter than the me-

Hymenoptera - Sphecidae - Larrinae - Nitelopecterus

dian, the areolet or second submarginal cell obliterated, evidently by the union of the two transverse cubital nervures as the only one now present is somewhat stout; the cubitus is indicated by a stump of a vein which is shorter than the transverse cubitus; marginal cell shorter than the first submarginal cell, slightly rounded at apex, but not appendiculated, about two and one-half times as long as wide. Abdomen oblong-oval, narrower than the thorax, with seven distinct segments; segments 1-3 occupying most of the surface, the first the longest, the second and third subequal; segments 4-7 united, not longer than the third.

In venation and general appearance this new genus is not unlike *Nitela* Latr., and will naturally, on account of the venation of front wings, come next to it in any natural arrangement of the genera of the Larridæ; but is readily separated by the strongly emarginated mandibles, the slight difference in size and shape of the marginal cell and by the cubitus in the hind wing originating somewhat farther away from the transverse median nerve.

Nitelopecterus slossonæ sp. n. ♂.—Length 3.5 mm. Black, more or less clothed with a silvery pile, the head in front and thorax above bronzed; clypeus and face below insertion of antennæ clothed with a dense, silvery pubescence; scape beneath, mandibles, tibiæ and tarsi, ferruginous; anterior and middle tibiæ on upper surface more or less dusky; apex of tarsal joints armed with black spines; flagellum filiform, joints 1-7 subequal 4 and 5 distinctly longer than 1 and 2, or about four times as long as thick. Abdomen with segments 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ banded with silvery pile on apical margins, less distinct on the following segments; the segments 1 and 2 have also a more or less distinct testaceous spot at apical middle.

Hab.—Lake Worth, Florida. (Mrs. Annie T. Slosson).

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SOME SPECIES OF *PERDITA* FROM NEBRASKA.

By T. D. A. COCKERELL, N. M. Agr. Exp. Station.

So far as I am aware, no species of *Perdita* has ever been recorded from Nebraska, so the following account of some just received from Prof. L. Bruner will possess interest.

(1). *Perdita albipennis* Cresson, 1868.—Sand Hills, Neb., July. Both sexes.

(2). *Perdita bruneri* n. sp. West Point, Neb., August, 1887. One of each sex, ♂.—About 6 mm. long. Head and thorax dark olive-green, dullish, with bright lemon-yellow markings. Face bare, vertex, cheeks and thoracic dorsum with the usual sparse pubescence, becoming dense and conspicuously white on lower part of cheeks and lower part of pleura. Head ordinary, cheeks unarmed. Face below level of antennæ all yellow, except clypeal dots, and a black streak at junction of dog-ear mark with

clypeus. Clypeus rather high; supraclypeal mark rectangular, nearly square, very slightly broader than long, emarginate at top. Lateral marks rapidly and evenly narrowing from top of dog-ear marks to a point on orbital margin about level with the middle of the scape, forming thereat an angle of about 45° . Cheeks dark with only a yellow line extending nearly half way up posterior orbital margin. Mandibles rufous at tips. Scape yellow with a black patch on distal half above. Flagellum black above, mostly dull yellowish below. Mesothorax dullish, microscopically tessellate, median groove very distinct. Tubercles and a pair of large spots on hind border of prothorax, connecting with them by a narrow line, yellow. A patch on border of prothorax below tubercles also yellow. Pleura wholly dark, metathorax distinctly bluish. Tegulae hyaline with a yellow spot. Wings hyaline, nervures and margin of stigma very pale chrome yellow. Marginal cell somewhat obliquely truncate, poststigmatal portion longest. Second submarginal large, narrowed one-half to marginal. Third discoidal distinct. Legs yellow, with dark brown markings. Femora for the most part dark brown beneath. Anterior and middle tibiae with a dark streak behind, hind tibiae almost entirely brown, except a yellow line down the front. Tarsi becoming whitish, claws dark. Abdomen above dark brown, with five clean cut yellow bands, all narrowly interrupted in the middle. These bands do not coalesce on lateral margin. Venter yellow.

♀.—About 6 mm. long, if anything smaller than the ♂, the thorax distinctly smaller, no dog-ear marks. The yellow markings apparently somewhat reddened by cyanide in the specimen described. Clypeus yellow with the usual dots and two heavy black bars. Supraclypeal mark nearly twice as broad as long. Lateral marks receding from the clypeus opposite the dot, curving gently upwards and outwards, then passing along the orbital margin as a band of uniform width, abruptly truncate at the upper level of the antennal sockets. Mandibles with slender dark tips. Scape more slender than in ♂. Prothoracic spots reduced to short lines or bands. Margin of stigma very pale orange contrasting with the very pale brownish nervures. Femora dark except at apex, middle and hind tarsi brownish. Abdomen banded as in the ♂, but the bands not so broad, and chrome instead of lemon-yellow. Venter dark brown.

In my table of *Perdita* (Proc. Phila. Acad. 1896), the ♂ *bruneri* runs at once to *sphaeralcea* ♂, from which it differs by the interrupted abdominal bands, the comparatively dull mesothorax, etc. The ♀ runs down to *affinis* ♀ variety, but differs at once from that which has cream-colored markings, dark nervures, and no well-developed supraclypeal mark.

(3). *Perdita sexmaculata* Ckll. 1895, var. *punctata*, Ckll., 1896. Lincoln, Nebr., September, one ♀.

(4). *Perdita ignota* Ckll., 1896. Lincoln, Neb., September, one ♀. The head and thorax have a decided olive-green color, but otherwise the specimen agrees with *ignota* from Mesilla, N. M. The occurrence of the species in Nebraska was wholly unexpected.

The above species are all Rocky Mountain types, representative of the upper Sonoran and Transition zones.